Malaria Eradication

1419. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people died due to malaria during last six months in Assam and elsewhere in the country;

(b) whether the incidents of Malaria deaths are increasing in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to eradicate Malaria?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) During the last six months (upto end June, 1996) 101 deaths due to Malaria have been reported from the States/UTs which include 20 deaths in Assam.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. However, the steps taken to control Malaria include :

- enhancement of the budgetory allocation for the National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP).
- grant of 100% Central assistance to the North -Eastern States since December, 1994;
- early detection and prompt treatment of malaria cases;
- Vector Control through effective use of insecticides to interrupt transmission;
- anti-larval measures to eliminate mosquito breeding sources;
- intensification of Health Education activities to create public awareness and participation in anti-malaria programmes.
- community involvement in malaria control activities.

Shipping Industry

1420. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce series of measures for efficient development of Indian ships and encourage growth of shipping industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether decision has been taken to introduce electronic data interchange system for shipping out cargoes to developed countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and implications of the proposed measures on shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have taken various measures during the last four years for the development of the Indian Shipping Industry. The salient features of these are :

(i) Automatic approval is now given for :

(a) acquisition of all categories of ships except Crude Tankers and Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs) by Private Shipowning Companies.

(b) acquisition of ships from an Indian Shipyard;

(c) acquisition of replacement tonnage; and

(d) foreign investment upto 51% for mechanised sailing vessels upto 10,000 Dead Weight Tonne.

(ii) Shipping Companies have been allowed to retain sale proceeds of their ships abroad and utilise them for fresh acquisition.

(iii) Shipping Companies have been given freedom to time charter out Indian Ships to Foreign Shipping Companies.

(iv) Shipping Companies are allowed to acquire vessels through bare boat charter-cum-demise method.

(v) The Shipping Companies are now permitted to get their ships repaired in any shipyard without seeking prior approval from the Government.

(vi) Quarterly Block Allocation Scheme for repair of ships has been dispensed with entirely and Reserve Bank of India now releases foreign exchange for ship repair/dry docking and spares for imported capital goods without any value limit.

(vii) Certain Sections of Merchant Shipping Act were considers by foreign lenders as impediments to the enforcement of the rights of lenders in case of loan detaults and consequent requirement of foreclosure of the mortgage. These have not been amended to facilitate Indian Shipping Companies to raise external commercial borrowings for foreign ship acquisitions.

(viii) Age norms for acquisition of second hand ships have been relaxed to give more operational freedom for shipowners.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted 'EDI Council' under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Commerce to oversee implementation of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) in the ports and air-ports. At the instance of Electronic Data Interchange Council, Message Development Groups (MDG) have been formed at each port for formulation of action programme since procedures, documentation, etc. differ from port to port. Message Development Groups at each port in consultation with port users will identify the procedures and practices requiring streamlining, changes required in the existing forms, etc. to evolve a unified pattern for all ports and to promote and